

# Richland Animal Rescue

PO Box 373 · Richland, MI 49083 · 269.671.5257

Bringing People & Pets Together for the Benefit of Both

June 11, 2012

This letter is in support of SB 423 and SB 434.

There are many important reasons to exclusively use humane euthanasia and end the use of the primitive gas chamber in Michigan.

With many of the pets in shelters simply lost or not found "in time" by their owners, the continued use of the gas chamber anywhere in Michigan is a threat to all pets and their owners within our state.

Michigan citizens expect the use of the most modern and humane method of euthanasia available to cause the death of unadopted or unclaimed pets at animal shelters.

Veterinarians, with a companion animal practice in Michigan, do not promote it as an "option" to clients...conscious suffocation is simply not a painless or peaceful death and their clients would be completely horrified to witness their companion experience the brutality. A pet, with a central nervous system, is very aware and the response is similar to drowning - it is terrifying!

Our rescue would never use toxic gas as a means to cause the death of an animal (including frightened animals) and we are hesitant to adopt a pet to anyone living in a county known to still use the gas chamber - just in case the adopted rescue pet was every lost or surrendered.

The use of the gas chamber in Michigan shelters, by any public or private animal shelter, compromises the integrity and respect of the public trust for all shelters.

Carbon monoxide is a hazardous substance and it is both a wrong and unnecessary "choice" - it is considered cruel by any reasonable person and citizens who love and own pets.

Sincerely,

Julie Baker  
Volunteer  
Richland Animal Rescue